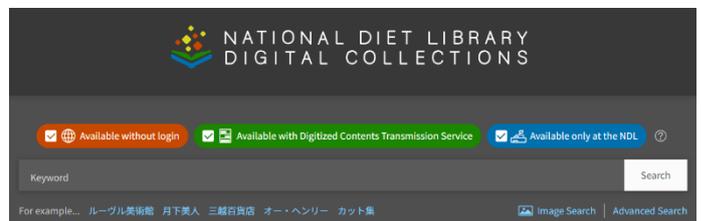
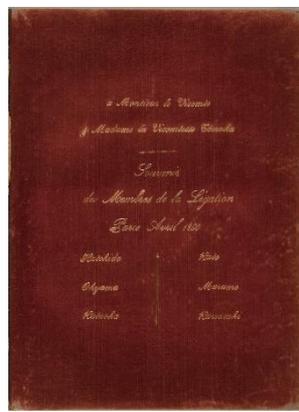


National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 267, February 2026



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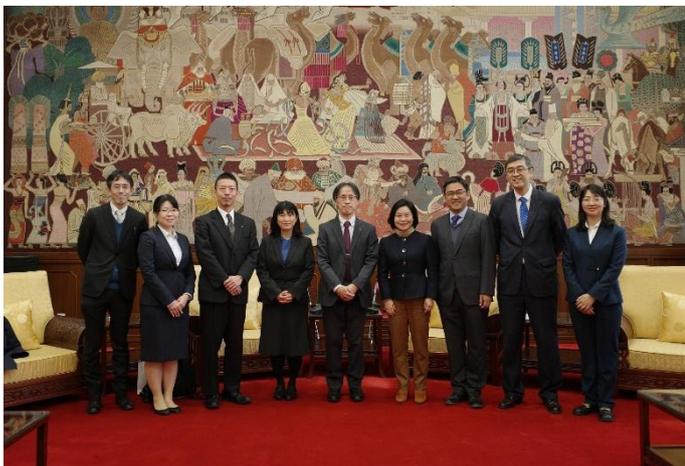
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Selections from NDL collections

Materials in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room: Souvenir des Membres de la Legation

Modern Japanese Political Documents Division, Reader Services and Collections Department

This article is a partial translation of the article in Japanese in [NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 763 \(November 2024\)](#).

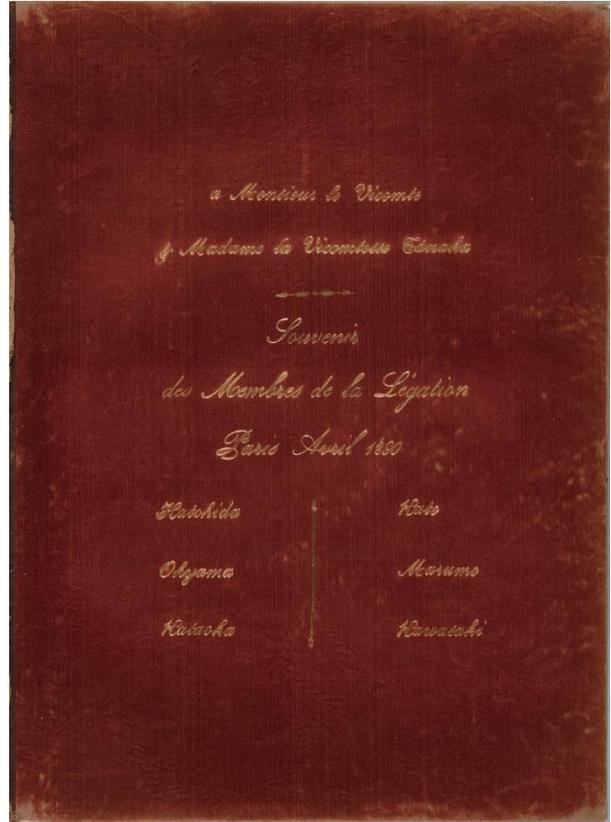


Image 1: cover (left) and title page (right)

Introduction

The National Diet Library holds a significant number of materials on modern Japanese political history, including the personal papers of politicians, high-ranking officials, and military officers. This article is one of a series introducing materials available at [the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room](#) in the Tokyo Main Library.

These materials on modern Japanese political history primarily comprise documents that were donated by the families of prominent figures and are made available to the public after being organized and catalogued by the NDL. We hope that this article will provide readers with a glimpse into the appeal of this invaluable collection, which supports scholarly research in political history and related fields.

Souvenir des Membres de la Legation (Constitutional Government Documents Collection 1509)

(1 book, available since January 2024)

Image 1 comprises the cover and the title page to a commemorative photo album presented in 1890 to TANAKA Fujimaro and his wife by the staff of the Japanese legation in France. TANAKA first went to Europe as Minister to Italy in 1884 and then in 1887 to France, where he served for about three years. This album was given to him as he was about to return home.



Image 2: Portrait of SAIGO Tsugumichi



Image 3: Portrait of AKIYAMA Yoshifuru

The album includes portraits of people who were in Europe at the same time as TANAKA. For example, SAIGO Takamori's younger brother, SAIGO Tsugumichi (Image 2), toured Europe during his tenure as Minister of Navy, visiting Italy while TANAKA was serving as minister. Also, AKIYAMA Yoshifuru (Image 3) was an army officer who was studying in France at the time and who later played an important role in the Russo-Japanese War. AKIYAMA is still well known today as one of the main characters in SHIBA Ryotaro's novel *Saka no Ue no Kumo* or *Clouds Above the Hill*.



Image 4: TANAKA Fujimaro

TANAKA Fujimaro (1845-1909)

Born in Aichi in 1845. After working as an anti-shogunate activist in the Owari domain, in 1871 he accompanied the IWAKURA Mission. After returning to

Japan, he was appointed Vice Minister of Education and enacted the Education Ordinance in 1879. Thereafter he served successively as the Secretary of Justice (*Shihokyo*, predecessor to the Minister of Justice), Minister to Italy, Minister to France, Privy Councilor, and Minister of Justice. He died in 1909.

The portrait is from *Shishaku tanaka fujimaro den bihan kinnoshi*. Kosaijuku. 1934.

(Translated by KUBO Satoshi)

Related content from the National Diet Library Website

- [Research Navi](#) : Summary of Modern Japanese political history materials (in Japanese)

Selections from NDL collections

"Sumida-gawa setchu no zu" by UTAGAWA Hiroshige
from the series Views of the Four Seasons at Famous Places in
Edo (*Edo meisho shiki no nagame*)



Published around 1844–1854. Three panels, 37 × 25 cm each.

*Available via the [NDL Digital Collections](#).

Sumida-gawa setchu no zu is one of the four large-format *nishiki-e* (color woodblock prints) triptychs that comprise the *Edo meisho shiki no nagame* series. Shown in this triptych is a snowy winter day on the Sumida River. The woman on the right with an umbrella in her hand is about to disembark from a boat on the river, while the two women in the center stand under a single umbrella, perhaps waiting to board. The winter clothes and the stylish manner in which the women manage the hems of their kimonos convey the elegant ambiance of the age. During the Edo period (1603–1868), the Sumida River was an important hub of transportation. At the same time, it was also a popular place for people to enjoy seasonal nature, and this custom has been depicted in numerous *nishiki-e*. Boats were generally used to get both people and goods across the river, because there were few bridges.

UTAGAWA Hiroshige (1797–1858) was a *ukiyo-e* artist who lived during the late Edo period and became famous during the Tempo era (1830–1844) for landscape paintings such as *Tokaido goju-san tsugi* (Fifty-three stations of the Tokaido). His work is said to have influenced Monet, Van Gogh, and other Western painters. Hiroshige's *bijin-ga* (pictures of beautiful women) from the Koka-Kaei period (1844–1854) are characterized by large-format depictions of tall, slender women in the foreground with elaborate landscapes in the background. The composition of this work, too, shows a similar technique, with the left-hand panel adding depth by depicting only the landscape, thereby counterbalancing the women in the foreground.

(Translated by MANO Yukako)

Articles by NDL staff

Let's use the full-text search of the National Diet Library Digital Collections!

Editorial Section, Administrative Division, Administrative Department of the National Diet Library

This article is a translation of the article in Japanese in NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 765 (January, 2025).

The National Diet Library Digital Collections provides full-text search for many of the included materials. With full-text search, you can search not only the titles and tables of contents of books and magazines, but also the main text, captions of illustrations, and content of tables. This makes it possible to discover information that may not have been found through conventional search methods.

This article offers a brief introduction to how to use the full-text search function of the National Diet Library.

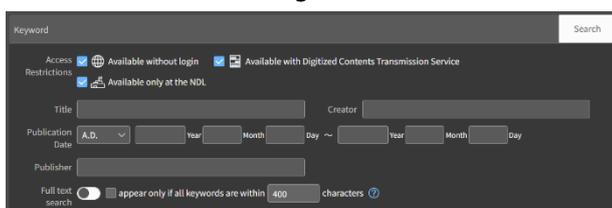
How to Use the Full-Text Search Function

To run a search, simply enter a keyword in the search box on the top page of the National Diet Library Digital Collections. By default, full-text search is also performed.



Keyword Search Box on the Top Page

If full-text search returns too many unrelated results, you can uncheck the "Full-Text Search" option in the "Advanced Search" settings.



Materials Covered by Full-Text Search

As of November 2024, approximately 2.97 million digitized books, magazines, and other materials provided in the National Diet Library Digital Collections are available for full-text search. In general, materials whose bibliographic information includes an "Available (W3CDTF)" date before November 2020 are searchable in full text.

The breakdown of major materials is shown in the table below (as of November 2024):

Collection	Approx. Number of Materials	Of Which, Full-Text Searchable
Books	2,088,000	1,475,000
Magazines	1,388,000	1,320,000
Doctoral Theses	180,000	149,000
Official Gazettes	21,000	21,000

OCR processing will continue to be applied to digitized materials to convert them into searchable text. For the latest updates, please visit:

<https://dl.ndl.go.jp/fulltext-search>

Displaying Search Results (List View)

For example, if you search for the keyword "藤村の羊羹" (Fujimura's Yokan [a sweet that was popular among literary giants in the Meiji era]), and filter the results to "Available without login," you'll see search results like the following.

A few characters before and after the keyword are shown, allowing you to check the context and find the part you want to view.



Search Results List View

*Keywords are displayed in bold.

(A) If the keyword appears in multiple frames of the same material, it will be displayed in a collapsed format such as "3 matched parts." You can expand it by clicking the "v" button—at which point it will appear as shown in the image below.



Expanded Collapsed Section

(B) If the keyword appears in the table of contents of a material, it is displayed as "TOC:" Clicking "TOC:" will take you not to the table of contents page, but to the frame where the item listed in the table of contents appears in the main text (in this case, the frame showing page 167).

(C) If the keyword appears in the main text of the material, it will be displayed as "## Frame:" Clicking "## Frame:" will take you to the corresponding frame.

Displaying Search Results (Material Viewing Screen)

Clicking "154 Frame:" for *当世大学生気質* (*Tōsei Daigakusei Kishitsu*) in the search results list will display the content browsing screen as shown below.



Material Viewing Screen

*Pins indicate where the keyword appears in the displayed frame.

(A) You can toggle the pin display on or off here.

(B) If you want to search for another word within the currently viewed material, you can change the string here and search again.

Using the full-text search function allows you to efficiently find specific terms, phrases, or names. Please make full

use of it for various types of research.

For more detailed information and search tips, please refer to the following pages on "Research Navi":

· How to utilize full-text search

https://ndlsearch.ndl.go.jp/en/rnavi/plan/post_987

· Tips for Making the Most of Full-Text Search (Japanese only)

https://ndlsearch.ndl.go.jp/en/rnavi/plan/fulltext_tips

Translator's Note: Please note that the images presented in this English translation differ from those in the original manuscript.

(Translated by KAWAMURA Masumi)

Events

The 41st Mutual Visit Program between the National Diet Library and the National Library of China



NDL delegation and senior officials of the NLC

The 41st Mutual Visit Program between the National Diet Library (NDL) and [the National Library of China \(NLC\)](#) was held in China from October 27 to November 2, 2025.

Headed by Mr. OBA Toshiyasu, Director General, Reader Services and Collections Department, the delegation from the NDL also included:

- Ms. SHIRAISHI Ikuko, Director, Planning and Cooperation Division, International Library of Children's Literature
- Mr. UNO Ryoichi, Service Planning Division, Reader Services and Collections Department
- Mr. YUNO Motoo, Overseas Legislative Information Division, Research and Legislative Reference Bureau (interpreter)
- Ms. YAMAMOTO Ayaka, Foreign Materials Division, Acquisitions and Bibliography Department (interpreter).

The main program is shown on the next page in the table. Detailed presentations were made in each session, followed by lively discussions during the Q&A session.

In the latter part of the program, the delegation also visited the Corner Tower Library, [the Beijing Library](#), the Shenzhen Library, [the Shenzhen Children's Library](#), the Bao'an Library, and [Shenzhen University Library](#).

<p>Opening Session (Keynote speeches) October 28, 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Status and Issues of the NDL 2024-2025 Mr. OBA Toshiyasu, Director General, Reader Services and Collections Department, NDL • Keynote Speech of the NLC Mr. ZHANG Jun, Deputy Director, NLC
<p>Session 1 October 28, 2025</p>	<p>Theme: Approaches to Promoting Reading in Libraries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiatives to Promote Children's Reading Activities at the International Library of Children's Literature, NDL Ms. SHIRAISHI Ikuko, Director, Planning and Cooperation Division, International Library of Children's Literature, NDL • Opening the Future Through Reading Promotion Projects—National Library of China's "Children Read in Seasons" Ms. CHEN Huina, Deputy Director, NLC Children's Library
<p>Session 2 October 29, 2025</p>	<p>Theme: Recent Trends in Information Provision Systems in Libraries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Access to Information Resources through the NDL Search Mr. UNO Ryoichi, Service Planning Division, Reader Services and Collections Department, NDL • Building and Operating the National Library of China Smart Q&A System Mr. BAI Yunfeng, Deputy Director, Reference Department, NLC

Main program

Reference:

- [Chronology of Mutual Visit Programs between the National Diet Library and the National Library of China](#)

Selected list of articles from NDL periodicals

The NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 777, January 2026/ No.778, February 2026

If you click the volume number of each issue, you can read the full-text of NDL Monthly Bulletin. The text is provided in PDF format (in Japanese).

[No. 777, January 2026 \(PDF: 5.65 MB\)](#)

- New Years Greetings for 2026
- <Book of the month — from NDL collections>
Clotilde et Alexandre Sakharoff: We danced music
- Special New Year's Feature:
SATO Takumi and KURIHARA Satoshi
Books and literacy in the wake of generative AI
- Exhibition at the International Library of Children's Literature
"Search and Find Books" and Their Friends
- The NDL in figures: From the Annual Report of the NDL, FY2024
- <Books not commercially available>
Yokohama chukagai 160nen no kiseki = Yokohama Chinatown, 160 years history: *Kono machi ga, furusato dakara.*
- <Tidbits of information on NDL>
Creating exhibitions at the International Library of Children's Literature
- <NDL Topics>

[No. 778, February 2026 \(PDF: 5.72 MB\)](#)

- <Book of the month — from NDL collections>
Umetsukushi: Retro yet modern design
- World Library and Information Congress:
89th IFLA General Conference and Assembly
- Authority data created by the NDL is continuing its expansion
- A selection from the seals and stamps of authors and publishers
Part 3: Various seals and stamps
- <Tidbits of information on NDL>
The small and amusing world of the cabinet storage of maps
- <Books not commercially available>
Muhime eno tegami: Kakuda ishikawake ni totsuida Date Masamune no jijo.
- <NDL Topics>